

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 15, 2002. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this Application. In order to advance prosecution of the Application, Applicants amend the title of the invention, the specification, and Claims 1, 6, 9, and 13. Applicants do not admit that these amendments were made as a result of any prior art reference. Applicants cancel Claims 5 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants add new Claims 21, 22, and 23. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 112 Rejection

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants request as the invention. Applicants amend Claims 1, 6, and 9 in a manner believed to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by these amendments and request withdrawal of these rejections.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 5-7, 12-14, 17-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,253,166 issued to *Dettelbach et al.* ("*Dettelbach*"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 12-14, 17-18, and 20.

Although Applicants believe Claim 1 is patentably distinct from *Dettelbach*, Applicants amend Claim 1 to further prosecution. Amended Claim 1 recites, in part, "A travel pricing system, comprising ... a server coupled to the data store, the server receiving new reservation data that conflicts with old reservation data in the data store, the new reservation data comprising a plurality of new attributes and a first version number, the old reservation data in the data store comprising a format and a plurality of old attributes and a second version number, wherein the second version number differs from the first version number ... associating the new reservation data with a time stamp ... and adding the new reservation data and time stamp to the data store without modifying the old attributes,

wherein the format of the new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the old reservation data in the data store.” *Dettelbach* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose each and every element of amended Claim 1. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *See Verdegaa Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987); M.P.E.P. § 2131. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *See Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

At the outset, amended Claim 1 recites “the new reservation data comprising a plurality of new attributes and a first version number, the reservation data in the data store comprising a format and a plurality of old attributes and a second version number, wherein the second version number differs from the first version number.” The Examiner cites *Dettelbach*’s FIGURES 3, 4, and col. 4, line 60 to suggest that *Dettelbach* includes the new and old attributes of the present invention. *See Office Action*, p. 5. Applicants do not concede these contentions and reserve the right to dispute them later, but even if correct, *Dettelbach* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose “a first version number” and a “second version number, wherein the second version number differs from the first version number.”

Dettelbach requires that all received data be converted into a common format, or structure, for each record type. For example, *Dettelbach* discloses “[b]etween the Header and Trailer are records delineating the customer data, department authorization, and air, hotel and automobile reservations ... All information in the Transfer File (.XFR) 20 is ASCII character data. This facilitates the selective arrangements of the items within the memory as shown. The various segments are detailed below.” *Dettelbach*, c. 4, ll. 45-58 (emphasis added); *see also id.*, FIGURE 1A. *Dettelbach* then details the precise common format for each record type including Begin Reservation, End Reservation, Customer Data, Air Travel Reservation Data, Transportation Rental Data, Hotel Booking Data, and Travel Data Code. *See Dettelbach*, c. 4, l. 61 – c. 5, l. 59; *see also id.*, FIGURE 4. *Dettelbach* further teaches that this common table structure is needed for users to access the stored data. More specifically, “[g]uidelines for customizing [off-the-shelf Database programs] according to the preferred embodiment are detailed below and in the accompanying Appendices wherein *Appendix I illustrates the Table structure in the preferred embodiment... Once organized in a*

manner corresponding to preferred embodiment methods, corporate accountants may easily retrieve *pre-formatted* and manageable account information.” *Dettelbach*, c. 6, ll. 42-55 (emphasis added); *see also id.*, c. 6, ll. 39-42.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites, in part, “the server receiving new reservation data that conflicts with old reservation data in the data store ... wherein the format of the new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the old reservation data in the data store.” The Examiner admits that, in *Dettelbach*, “[t]he new reservation data is then conditioned and is *converted to the same output format* as the historical reservation files maintained in the system’s database.” Office Action, p. 6 (emphasis added). Consequently, *Dettelbach* can not teach “wherein the format of the new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the old reservation data in the data store.”

Claims 2-3 and 21 depend from Claim 1, shown above to allowable, and recite further limitations that are patentably distinct from *Dettelbach*. For example, *Dettelbach* fails to teach, suggest, or disclose “receiving second new reservation data, the second new reservation data comprising a plurality of new attributes and a third version number, wherein the third version number differs from the second version number ... associating the received second new reservation data with a time stamp ... and adding the received second new reservation data and time stamp to the data store, wherein the format of the second new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the first new reservation data in the data store” as recited, in part, by dependent Claim 21. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-4 and 21.

For at least the reasons stated above with regard to amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 6. Claims 7 and 22 depend from amended Claim 6, shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 7 and 22.

For at least the reasons stated above with regard to amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 13. Claims 14, 17-18, 20, and 23 depend from amended Claim 13, shown above to be allowable. For at least these

reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 14, 17-18, 20, and 23.

The Examiner rejects Claims 4, 8-11, 15-16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dettelbach*. Claim 4 depends from amended Claim 1, shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 4. Claims 8-11 depend from amended Claim 6, shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 8-11. Claims 15-16 and 19 depend from amended Claim 13, shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 15-16 and 19.

CONCLUSION

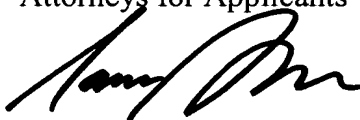
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-23.

With the presentation of the additional dependent claims, an additional filing fee is now due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-0765 of Electronic Data Systems Corporation.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call its attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment A – Marked-Up Claims

A marked-up version of the amended claims appears below. For the convenience of the Examiner, all of the pending claims have been reproduced regardless of whether amended or not. Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A travel pricing system, comprising:

a data store; and

a server coupled to the data store, the server **[operable to];**

[receive] receiving new reservation data that conflicts with old reservation data in the data store, the new reservation data comprising a plurality of new attributes **and a first version number**, the **old** reservation data in the data store comprising a format and a plurality of old attributes **and a second version number, wherein the second version number differs from the first version number;**

[associate] associating the new reservation data with a time stamp; and

[add] adding the new reservation data and time stamp to the data store without modifying the old attributes, **wherein the format of the new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the old reservation data in the data store.**

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the new reservation data are added to the data store by appendage into a flat file.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the new reservation data comprise travel reservation data associated with a city pair.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the new reservation data are added to the data store by using the time stamp as a key into a database.

Please cancel Claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

6. (Amended) A travel pricing system, comprising:

a data store; and

a server coupled to the data store, the server [operable to]:

[receive] receiving new reservation data that conflicts with old reservation data in the data store, the new reservation data comprising a first version number and new fare data associated with a city pair, the old reservation data comprising a second version number and old fare data associated with the city pair, wherein the second version number differs from the first version number;

[associate] associating the received reservation data with a time stamp; and

[add] adding the received reservation data and time stamp to the data store without modifying the old fare data, wherein the format of the new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the old reservation data in the data store.

7. The travel pricing system of claim 6, wherein the fare data comprises a fare associated with a service provider.

8. The travel pricing system of claim 7, wherein the data store comprises files indexed by city pair.

9. (Amended) The travel pricing system of claim 7, wherein the server is further [operable to]:

[receive] receiving new reservation data that conflicts with old reservation data in the data store, the new reservation data comprising new rule data associated with the city pair, the old reservation data comprising old rule data associated with the city pair;

[associate] associating the received reservation data with a time stamp; and

[add] adding the received reservation data and time stamp to the data store without modifying the old rule data.

10. The travel pricing system of claim 6, wherein the data store comprises data files indexed by city pair and by carrier.

11. The travel pricing system of claim 6, wherein the time stamp comprises an activation stamp that indicates when the server can initially use the new reservation data.

Please cancel Claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer.

13. **(Amended)** A method for organizing travel reservation data, comprising:
receiving new reservation data that conflicts with old reservation data in a data store, the new reservation data comprising a plurality of new attributes and a first version number, the reservation data in the data store comprising a plurality of old attributes and a second version number, wherein the second version number differs from the first version number;
associating the new reservation data with a time stamp; and
adding the new reservation data and time stamp into the data store without modifying the old attributes, wherein the format of the new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the old reservation data in the data store.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the old reservation data and the new reservation data each comprise travel reservation data associated with a city pair.
15. The method of claim 13, wherein the new reservation data are added to the data store by using the time stamp as a key into a database.
16. The method of claim 13, further comprising dynamically processing a format of the old reservation data that differs from a format of the new reservation data utilizing Prolog.
17. The method of claim 13, wherein the new reservation data are added into the data store by appendage into a flat file chronologically using the time stamp.
18. The method of claim 13, further comprising synchronizing the new reservation data with an additional server.
19. The method of claim 13, wherein the data store comprises files indexed by city pair.
20. The method of claim 13, wherein the attributes comprise one selected from the group consisting of fares associated with a service provider, rules associated with a service provider, and restrictions associated with a service provider.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 21. The system of claim 1, wherein the new reservation data comprises first new reservation data and the server is further:

receiving second new reservation data, the second new reservation data comprising a plurality of new attributes and a third version number, wherein the third version number differs from the second version number;

associating the second new reservation data with a time stamp; and

adding the second new reservation data and time stamp to the data store, wherein the format of the second new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the first new reservation data in the data store.

22. The system of claim 6, wherein the new reservation data comprises first new reservation data and the server is further:

receiving second new reservation data, the second new reservation data comprising a plurality of new attributes and a third version number, wherein the third version number differs from the second version number;

associating the second new reservation data with a time stamp; and

adding the second new reservation data and time stamp to the data store, wherein the format of the second new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the first new reservation data in the data store.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein the new reservation data comprises first new reservation data and the method further comprises:

receiving second new reservation data, the second new reservation data comprising a plurality of new attributes and a third version number, wherein the third version number differs from the second version number;

associating the second new reservation data with a time stamp; and

adding the second new reservation data and time stamp to the data store, wherein the format of the second new reservation data in the data store differs from the format of the first new reservation data in the data store. --